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Reveille Newsletter

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### January 2015

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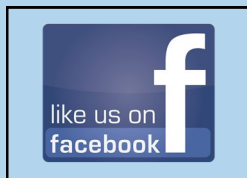


# Reveille

Issue 20  
Winter Break '15

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or search for

**CSUSB Veterans Success Center**

## Military Appreciation Night

The CSUSB Veterans Success Center, in partnership with Associated Students, Inc., and university athletics, will honor those who have served, or are still serving, in all branches of the United States Armed Forces on "Military Appreciation Night" at the CSUSB Coyotes vs. the East Bay Pioneers basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, from 5 - 8:30 p.m. Throughout the night, tributes and thanks will be given to the men and women of the military for their dedication and the sacrifices made for our country.

Prior to the game, military members, veterans, and students will feast at a BBQ tailgate party sponsored by the Student Veterans Organization through an ASI Howl grant. Directly following the tailgate, those in attendance will get free tickets to watch the CSUSB women's and men's basketball games. Beginning at tipoff, a joint Color Guard comprised of cadets from the CSUSB Air Force ROTC, Det. 002, and the Army ROTC, Coyote Battalion, will post the colors. followed by JROTC cadets representing several high schools and four branches of service, who will majestically unfurl a giant American flag across the basketball court. Opera singer Richard Lindsey will sing the national anthem and "America the Beautiful."

Throughout the game, there will be opportunity drawings, and military items will be given out to the fans. At halftime, Wounded Warriors and disabled veterans will be honored, and future soldiers and warriors will take the ceremonial oath.

If your organization wishes to sponsor the event call Jaime Espinoza, Veterans Success Center, at (909)537-5195 or email him at [jespinoza@csusb.edu](mailto:jespinoza@csusb.edu).



## Fall Veterans Graduation Stole Ceremony

On Friday evening, Dec. 5, 2014, fourteen student veterans and their family members attended the Fall 2014 Student Veterans Graduation Celebration. Remarks were provided by Lt. Col. Charles Peterson, SVO President Richard Shepard and CSUSB alumni Antonio Silva. Chaplain Cesar Rodriguez provided the benediction and invocation.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the student veterans were presented with graduation regalia, which included a stole with the American flag, branch patch and CSUSB embroidered on it by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rachel Wu, U.S. Army, and

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Eric Rebollar, U.S. Marine Corps. Those graduating with a 3.0 GPA and above were provided with a red, white and blue honor chord and a lifetime paid membership to the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society. Student veterans were also presented with a Certificate of Recognition from California Assembly Member Cheryl R. Brown, 47th Assembly District, a CSUSB alumni pin, and a branch medallion provided by the Help Hospitalized Veterans. After the ceremony, dinner and desert were served. Congratulations to all the new graduates!



The Veterans Success Center presents the  
S.T.A.R.S. Seminar Series

### FINANCIAL SURVIVAL

WORLD PREMIER ON

1.20.2015 11:45 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

AT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO'S  
VETERANS SUCCESS CENTER

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER

ART STEIN

PRESIDENT, STEIN FINANCIAL GROUP INC.

The sessions are open discussions on topics that we know are important to our student veterans. The sessions are moderated by experts but driven by the attendees! The free one-hour sessions will be held by the Veterans Success Center each month at 11:45 a.m. and best of all, we provide the lunch for free.

## VA Services on Campus

The Department of Veterans Affairs, San Bernardino Vet Center will be providing the following services at the Cal State San Bernardino Campus on the first Monday of each month, 10 am—3 pm.

Services offered include:

- Readjustment counseling;
- Overview of Benefits; and
- Referral Services.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact  
Yesenia Thomas at 909-801-5762

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
SAN BERNARDINO  
Veterans Success Center

Get  
Connected  
and Stay  
Empowered

Vet  
Center



## Veterans to Receive In-state Tuition

Veterans throughout the nation will soon be eligible for in-state tuition rates because of a little-known provision in a \$16 billion federal law signed by President Obama. The effective date for the implementation of the Veterans' Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) is July 1, 2015. Aimed primarily at improving veterans' access to health care, the law allows any veteran who has served at least 90 days of active service to pay resident tuition rates in any state within three years of leaving the military. Spouses and children using transferred entitlement under the Post

9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill are also considered "covered individuals." The law would apply to any public college or university receiving federal funding through the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Schools that don't comply with the new change would lose federal funding (Title 38 funds).

According to Student Veterans of America, "twenty-six (26) states have state laws providing a residency exemption to student veterans for in-state tuition. Nine states have a school or school systems that provide a residency exemption to student veterans for in-state tuition. Seven states have legislation pending."

California's legislation only extends in-state tuition to a service member stationed in California, for a minimum of a year, if they enroll within one year from their departure from the military. Assemblyman Rocky Chávez, R-Oceanside, has revived and amended legislation (Assembly Bill 13) requiring the California higher education system to grant veterans in-state tuition. Obviously, changing state law could take more time than the July 1, 2015, implementation deadline. This is a positive step for those that wished to immediately continue their education, but waited a year to establish residency.

## Free Crafts!

Stop by the Veterans Success Center and ask the front desk to get your free craft kits! The craft kits are donated through Help Hospitalized Veterans and range from fighter jet models to build-your-own dream catcher kits.



CSUSB Palm Desert Campus

Veterans Success Center

## Open House

We invite you to join The PDC Veterans Success Center to tour our center, learn more about access and availability to resources.



Join us in celebrating

Bald Eagle Appreciation Day

*"The Founding Fathers made an appropriate choice when they selected the bald eagle as the emblem of the nation. The fierce beauty and proud independence of this greatly bird, aptly symbolizes the strength and freedom of*

*America."*

-President John F. Kennedy

**When:** Wednesday, January 21  
10 a.m. to noon

**Where:** Palm Desert Health  
Sciences, Room 105

**Who:** All students (veterans & non-veterans), as well as veteran dependents

**Refreshments  
will be served!**



# *Darcie Tossetti*

## *The Woman Behind the Scenes*



Darcie with her son, Chief Petty Officer Tossetti

First let me introduce myself: Darcie Tossetti is my name and volunteering is my game.

About two years ago, I found myself a very bored SBCUSD retiree. A friend of mine who worked closely with the military recruiters at the time told me about the newly opened Veterans Success Center here at CSUSB. I had no clue what I could do at the center, but I decided to go and see if they needed any help.

When I first met with the center director, Marci Daniels, she shared with me a vision she had for a quilt made with quilt squares created by graduating vets. As a quilter, I jumped at the idea of making this quilt come to life. So with thinking this was all I was going to do for the center, I went on my merry way. Not quite....before I knew, I was cutting yellow ribbons for the campus wide Yellow Ribbon Campaign, followed by making flower bouquets for the graves at Riverside National Cemetery on Memorial Day. And that was just in the first month.

Helping plan the many events that the center hosts has been such a blessing to me. Ten years ago I had surgery to remove a meningioma brain tumor from my left frontal lobe. The surgery and the issues that followed over the next few years really robbed me of the confidence I once had. Since volunteering at the center, I've found that confidence again and so much more.

It has been an honor to be able to work beside our American heroes—our vets. Thank you all for letting me be a part of all this fun.

## *Moral Injury Conference Held in December*



On Thursday, Nathan Graeser, community liaison-analyst, Center Dec. 11, the for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Veterans Families, University of Southern California School of Success Center, Social Work. A clip from the video “Soldiers of in collaboration Conscience” was also shown, featuring the story of with CalVET Camilo Mejia. Chaplain, Maj. David Sarmiento and the Art emceed the event and the Art Institute’s culinary art Institute—Inland students whipped up a bevy of pastries and muffins Empire, hosted for the participants to feast on. the Inland

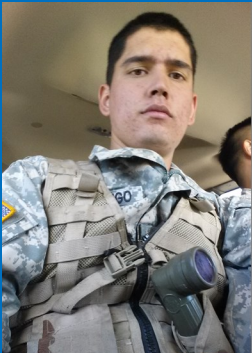
Empire Veterans Mental Health Collaborative on moral injury. Speakers included Dana Timmermans, therapist, County of Orange Healthcare Agency—Veterans Services, Patrick O’Rourke, Ed.D., director of Active Duty and Veterans Affairs, Office of the Chancellor, California State University system, Fifty-nine individuals representing 42 agencies were in attendance. The satisfaction survey analysis revealed that 93 percent of the participants responded they were satisfied with the program and 97 percent felt that the event was well run.



# How Did You Spend the Holidays?

## Eduardo Verdugo

Army National Guard, VSC Student Assistant, Freshman



Ed in uniform

For just about everyone the holidays are about family, friends, great food, and great fun, and that was exactly what they mean to me too. My holidays were spent with those closest to my heart, my family and dear friends. Being of Mexican American descent my holiday season was jam packed full of parties, social gatherings, and religious events. As is tradition in my heritage, we ate typical holiday foods

such as tamales, churros, champurado, rosca de reyes and many others, and alongside that some other foods my family has adopted into our holiday meals like ham, turkey, eggnog, and fruitcake to name a few. During these gatherings, we sang karaoke, danced, laughed, talked and enjoyed each other's company. Overall my holidays were spent as anyone's should be with friends and family.

## Luca Daley

VSC Student Assistant, Junior

I spent my break working and went home to Oceanside on the 24th. It was great to be able to spend time with my family and help my dad with projects around the house. It was also great to be back in my home town as I haven't



Luca with his family at Balboa Park

even been in the ocean for over a month and was having withdrawals. One of the highlights of my break was when I was told by my OSO, Capt. Roberts, that I've been selected to attend USMC OCS in the summer. If all goes according to plan, I will be shipping out June 1st to Quantico, Va., for an opportunity to earn the title of a Marine Corps officer. All in all I would say it was a productive winter break.

## Mike Kampbell

U.S. Air Force Veteran, Junior



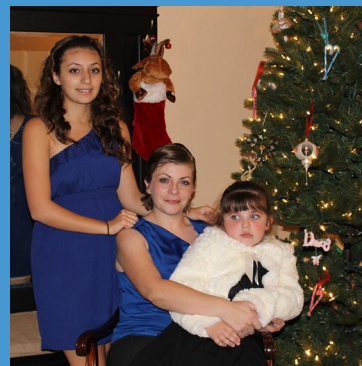
Mike having a good time

Wow, break was awesome! So awesome that I didn't want to come back to school (Haha). But, whenever I gain the opportunity to spend quality time with my love ones and take time to reflect on the things I have and don't have, it's always a GOOD

TIME! As I look back on all the fun and joy I had last year during break, I can't seem to get over the fact how excited I am to embark on this upcoming school year as a COYOTE! It gives me great happiness to know that there is another year to live, love and enjoy life! Here's to a wonderful 2015!!!

## Jennifer Iacolino

U.S. Army Veteran, Alumni



Jennifer with her daughters

I brought in the New Year with close family. My resolution includes applying for the fall 2015 credential course and if possible the MFA program. I also recently took my CBEST and CSET for English. I realized in 2006 after I returned from Iraq that

I wanted to go back to school...it took a lot of courage... and discipline... and I had to put college first with so many absurdities in my life. I know I may no longer be an expert shooter or a physically fit soldier, but I am glad I am me and that I chose English as my special skill. I may need more discipline in this field but it feels good to know I passed my grammar state test without a problem and I am improved literally! It was a very relaxing break and I hope 2015 is adventurous and giving!